

MEHA Membership Meeting
September 13, 2011
Holiday Inn Grand Montana
Billings, Montana

Board members present:

Christine Hughes, President
Karen Solberg, President Elect
Ruth Piccone, 1st Vice President
Crystal Nuno, Past President
Kathy Moore, Treasurer
Frank Preskar, Director-Alt. Treasurer
Greg McGann, Director

Board members absent:

Patty Hamblock, Temporary Secretary
Tom Moore, Director
Steve Kilbreath, Director

Christine called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 pm. Julie Lethert motioned to approve the minutes of May 3, 2011. Kathy Moore seconded. The minutes are approved.

Kathy presented the Treasurers report. The board is considering eliminating online credit card transactions because costs are very high. Greg McGann suggests adopting a credit card service charge fee for online transactions. Corrine Rose motioned to approve the Treasurers report. Clay Vincent seconded. The Treasurers report is approved.

Karen Solberg presented the budget for 2012. The budget is based upon estimation of needs. Estimates are on the high side and may not be exact. Mike Rinaldi motioned to approve the budget. Chad Lanes seconded. The budget is approved.

Committee Reports:

Nominations:

The open board positions are now filled by the following:

Secretary – Clark Snyder
Treasurer – Josh Juarez
Director – Erik Leigh
Director – Mary Lou Gilman
1st Vice President – Laurel Riek

Legislation:

This past legislative session, MEHA partnered with AMPHO on the numerous bills involving environmental health. Tim Roark commended Christine on her good work and active involvement during this past session. Melissa Tuemmler commented on how MEHA has to be involved with legislation because the State cannot be. Barbara Woodbury felt it was helpful for MEHA to provide weekly updates because local sanitarians do not have the time to track. Christine mentioned that she spent a large amount of time working on various bills; mostly defending. She states that while MEHA involvement was

good, more help is needed as a result of the high volume of bills that are being proposed. Having someone present at the Capital, such as a lobbyist, has the greatest impact and is something the membership should consider moving forward. Christine adds that the work done this year could not have been accomplished without the help of AMPHO and their lobbyist Linda Stohl. Christine also proposed a survey to assess legislative priorities; perhaps every other year and prior to the legislative session.

Christine discussed the benefits of a lobbyist:

- To build professional relationships with political figures on an ongoing basis.
- Coordinator to lead efforts into legislation (organize committees, letter writing, etc.)
- To provide boots on the ground during session and can provide regular updates to MEHA

Membership questioned the cost of hiring a lobbyist. The Board suggested raising money through the Foundation and to spend the reserves from the MEHA savings if the members felt it was important.

Barbara Schneeman and Erin McGowan Fincham joined the meeting representing AMPHO. They presented on the history of AMPHO, the importance of forming a partnership, and the need to prepare for the next session. Working parallel to each other dilutes the effort and they advocate that partnering can have a far reaching impact. They stress that a long term strategy is needed and would like to develop a MOU with MEHA and MPHA.

Corrine Rose motioned to have MEHA partner with AMPHO and to allow the board to strategize and make necessary fiscal decisions regarding legislative activities. Clay Vincent seconded the motion. The motion carries.

The group discussed structuring the legislative committee with thoughts of having one representative from MEHA legislative committee and one MEHA Board member involved in discussions with AMPHO.

Christine concluded the discussion, stating that MEHA continues to work on the Safe Chemicals Act with Women's Voices for the Earth and the American Lung Association.

Awards:

Ruth thanked the membership for nominations received. Awards will be given at the banquet.

Articles/Bylaws:

Ruth suggests combining the Articles and Bylaws but has not begun any work. Membership suggested MEHA have an attorney review before moving forward. Kathy adds that the Articles are filed with the Secretary of State and if they are changed, will need to be re-filed.

Conference Planning:

Karen Solberg discussed advantages/disadvantages of a joint conference.

- Good to partner with other Associations
- Good for cost sharing
- Bad time of the year (MEHA typically has a conference on October)
- Different objectives that may or may not be good

The membership expressed in favor of a joint conference overall and feel the networking is beneficial. MEHA will be open to the idea of future joint conferences.

Membership:

There are 133 members in all. The committee has sent mailers and has created brochures to promote membership.

Communication:

Rod Daniel is currently editor but the board is always seeking additional help.

Archives:

Tim Reed currently has all of the archive materials passed down from Jerry Cormier. He has gone through and catalogued it. He has also been in contact with MSU-Bozeman and has learned there are approx. 6 boxes of materials that have not been touched since the days of William Walter. MSU has offered to sort through the boxes, but are reluctant because they don't know what it all is. Tim is not sure if he will be allowed access because he is not an MSU employee. Toots Taszut has offered to contact MSU and see if MEHA can be allowed access through her.

Foundation:

50/50 raffle tickets, MEHA t-shirts and hats are for sale. The Foundation budget has not been changed.

Workforce and Professional Development:

Barbara Woodbury reports there is a presentation today at 2 pm concerning WPD issues. Hot topics will be discussed.

New Business:

The MEHA board is reviewing goals and strategic directions annually.

Rod Fink reports on the Board of Sanitarians, stating they meet every other month. They have sent out some surveys this past year. There has been some talk about increasing CEU's from 15 – 24 every 2 years and to divide into mandatory and elective categories. Rod is open to comments concerning change of CEU's.

Kathy Moore motioned to adjourn. Frank Preskar seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.